

❖The Lamoine Quarterly❖

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What a Winter in Lamoine!

(Lamoine) - Our little town doesn't show up in the tracking for the National Weather Service total snowfall amounts—but we've got a pretty good idea that Lamoine, like much of the rest of Eastern Maine, received over 130-inches of snow during the first 3-months of 2015. If you know any of the men and women who plow it for a living, you know they haven't had much sleep since mid-January when it started. What's more, it was pretty darned cold, too! For a period between Christmas Day and March 12th, the temperature never hit 50-degrees. Those who keep track of things report it was the coldest February on record.

All that snow and cold took a bit of a toll—at least two empty homes saw porch roofs collapse under the snow's weight. The 1,500 gallons of heating fuel pre-purchased for the Lamoine Fire Station is exhausted. Luckily, the price of fuel was relatively low, and the extra fuel used is still within the dollar amount built into the budget.

For plowing contractor Richard McMullen and crews, the trucks were on the road almost non-stop for a month and a half as storm after storm dumped snow. McMullen works under a modified straight contract—meaning if doesn't snow a flake, he still gets paid. The town a few years ago built an escalator clause into the contract in case there was an unusually stormy winter or the price of diesel fuel rose sharply, that required an extraordinary cost, the contractor could be entitled to additional compensation. At the end of the



The named it "Stormageddon"

Remington & Jasper Berzinis-McLaughlin and their neighbor Kaleb Payson crafted this giant snowman with help from dad Sean McLaughlin's excavator. This picture appeared first on Lamoine's Facebook page and spread quickly world-wide, generating over 111,000 views making it the most popular computer post ever by the town. "Stormy" as they called it, was decorated with saw blades for buttons and the mouth, a plow truck light for the nose, and a large trash can for a hat. As word spread of the gigantic snowman, traffic picked up dramatically in front of the Douglas Highway home.

plowing season in April, the town and McMullen will tally up things to see how it all shakes out.

The storms were tough on school administrators who were forced to call off classes numerous times during the stormy

stretch. The staff and students made the best of things while they were in school, sculpting dinosaurs and playing on the huge piles of snow that formed after plowing the parking lots. It's pretty safe to say, though, everyone wants spring!

Town Meeting is Swift Affair

(Lamoine) - No contested races for Selectman, School Committee or Assessor kept turnout for the annual municipal election relatively low in March. Fewer than 10-percent of Lamoine's registered voters cast ballots, and all the incumbent office holders were returned to office. Gary McFarland and Jo Cooper remain on the Board of Selectmen, Michael Brann has

another 3-years on the school committee and Michael Jordan will be a tax assessor for another 3-years. A total of 145 ballots were cast.

The open town meeting drew even fewer voters—67—to the Lamoine School Gym on March 11th. Those voters swiftly approved every item on the town meeting warrant. The articles included borrowing

\$75,000 for a replacement rescue boat for the fire department, and authority for the Board of Selectmen to explore purchase of the property across the street from the town hall.

The articles took less than an hour for moderator Harvey Kelley to complete. The article funding various social service agencies had a couple of amended amounts and swiftly passed. The school budget was not on the warrant.



Marion McFarland—Citizen of the Year

(Lamoine) - It's not often that you can pull one over on Marion McFarland, but her family and the Board of Selectmen did it. As she sat in the front row of the annual town meeting with her husband Walt and daughter Jean, and while Selectmen Gary McFarland (her son) and Jo Cooper read the accolades of the citizen of the year, a look of pure surprise crossed her face.



Marion McFarland receives the official proclamation naming her the 2014 Citizen of the Year from the chair of the Board of Selectmen (and her son) Gary McFarland.

The Board selected Marion for her lifetime of dedication to the town. She once served in an official capacity. She said that among her duties was paying the bounty for porcupines, and recalled how one resident would stockpile them over the winter and bring her a bag of porcupine feet to collect the payment in the spring.

Mrs. McFarland is a lifelong resident of Lamoine and a history buff. If you want to know something about what happened in Lamoine since it became a

town in 1870, Marion is your go to person. She has also played a key role in the only church in town, serving as a deacon and a Sunday School teacher.

In her brief remarks to the gathered voters, Marion noted that she's probably served lunch or dinner to everyone in the room at one time or another. She is the matriarch of the Ellsworth Giant Sub shop on Beckwith Hill in Ellsworth, and at age (well, let's just say somewhere north of 50) still shows up to work most every day.

Selectmen to Explore Land Purchase

(Lamoine) - No questions, not even a comment as voters swiftly approved an article to explore the possible purchase of a large tract of land across Douglas Highway from the current town office building. The feedback prior to the vote, though, seemed very positive.

The town shows approximately 49 acres on the corner of Douglas Highway and Jordan River Road. It is owned by the children of the late Lawrence "Lonnie" Collier and has been on the market for a while.

The Selectmen were approached about the possibility of acquiring the property by residents and decided to proceed slowly, first asking the annual town meeting if there was any interest.

There was—unanimously.

There are no plans at this time for any particular land use. The Selectmen are aware that the land can be quite wet, and may opt to conduct a soils test to see if it will support a septic system in the future. A neighboring property has a well pump house on the land and the owner expressed his desire to have the land publicly owned as protection for his drinking water source. Others envision a future town hall combined with a park area should the land be suitable.

The town meeting article authorizes the Selectmen to enter a purchase and sale agreement and to come back to a town meeting within 60-days of that agreement being reached.

Heating Fund Donations Very Generous

(Lamoine) - A big thanks goes to Lamoine's Heating Assistance Committee which has solicited donated funds to assist citizens who are having trouble paying for heating fuel. Jane Fowler, Walter Grenier and Kathie Gaianquest approached several businesses and individuals and as of the end of March, there was nearly \$2,600 in the fund. One application was received and approved for payment during the winter months.

The program was established in 2014 by the Board of Selectmen to offer a vehicle for people who wanted to donate funds to help neighbors in need stay

warm. After some organizational meetings in the fall, the Heating Assistance Committee developed a brochure and visited Ellsworth area business, many of whom were extremely generous. A list of donors is posted on the town's website.

The process is confidential—the application form is very simple. Once an application is received, committee members are contacted via e-mail for their approval. If approval is granted, the heating supply vendor is contacted to arrange for delivery and direct payment. Applicants are eligible for the equivalent of 100-gallons of heating fuel a winter.

Appeals Board Declines "Friends" v. CEO Case

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Board of Appeals has determined that it does not have jurisdiction to hear a complaint by a citizens group upset with a commercial building project that received Planning Board and Appeals Board approval in 2014. The group calling itself Friends of Lamoine, filed a complaint with the Code Enforcement Officer that the project by Doug Gott and Sons violates Lamoine's Gravel Ordinance because more than 500 -cubic yards of gravel is being moved in order to make room for the commercial garage.

The friends group filed a complaint with Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan last fall, and Jordan did not issue a notice of violation to the property owner, as the project had town board approval. The friends group then appealed Jordan's decision.

After two lengthy meetings and several briefs filed in the case, the Appeals Board found that the Lamoine Gravel Ordinance contains no provision to locally appeal decisions made by the Code Enforcement Officer. Such appeals must be filed directly with Superior Court. The Gott project will move about 70,000 yards of material in order to create less of a visual impact from the commercial garage.

Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan issued the following building permits in the first quarter of 2015.

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Jones, Harry | Mobile Home |
| 2 | McMullen, Steve | Garage |
| 3 | Cannada, Jeff | Residence |

In addition to the building permits, three internal plumbing permits and one septic permit received approval.

No complaints requiring code enforcement investigation have come in during the quarter. Jordan is monitoring progress by a Marlboro Beach Road property owner who agreed to remove dangerous hazards from a vacant home.

Gravel Permit Renewal On Tap

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board will consider an application to renew a gravel permit for RF Jordan and Sons at its April 7, 2015 meeting. The Ellsworth based company operates the former King Pit (also known as the Zerrien Pit) on Douglas Highway on the hill just to the South of the Lamoine General Store. A public hearing is planned for 6:30 PM with action expected following the hearing.

Special Meeting to Decide School Budget

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's School Committee and Superintendent Katrina Kane are putting the finishing touches on the 2015/16 school budget as of the end of March. A final draft will likely go before Lamoine's Budget Committee on April 13.

This will be the first full year of school budget development for Kane and the newly formed Lamoine School Department. Board chair Brett Jones indicated the property tax impact of the budget is projected to decrease slightly, but that administrative costs will probably show an increase. When Lamoine and

Hancock joined forces for a central office, the needs and time commitment were unknown. With nearly 9-months of operation having passed, it has become clear that the services of the central office, including the Superintendent's time are a bit more than projected, and this will be reflected in the administrative line.

A special town meeting is likely to be called for May 20, 2015 to adopt a school budget. A validation vote must follow the budget adoption, most likely on June 9, 2015. Check the town's website for updated information.

New Recreation Committee Up & Running

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have appointed a 5-member Recreation Committee to start offering community based programs for both youth and adults. Retired educator Greg Stone is chairing the committee and is joined by Becky Mason, Elizabeth Stanley, Elie Khoury and Tim Jordan.

The committee has met several times on Saturday mornings since the first of the year, and is in the midst of running its first program—indoor soccer. Jordan and Brandon Joy are coaching the youngsters who utilize the gym at the Lamoine School to sharpen up their soccer skills. The committee plans to draw up more programs to submit to the Board of Selectmen for final approval in the coming weeks.

Flat Top 5K Draws 277 Despite a Chill

(Lamoine) - The 10th version of the Flat Top 5K road race was by far the chilliest, but that did not deter runners on March 28th. Nearly 300 adults and quite a few youngsters registered for the race that started and ended at the Lamoine Consolidated School.



One course record was shattered when Sarah Mulcahy of Baring Plt (near Calais) broke the women's course record, finishing 6th over all in a time of 18:47. The previous record holder, Jennifer VanDongen, finished 2nd in the women's division.

Elite runner and state representative Louie Luchini of Ellsworth won the overall race in a time of 16:41. He also holds the course record. Matt Homich, also of Ellsworth, finished 2nd, just 13-seconds behind Luchini.

The Flat Top 5K is run in honor of former Lamoine Harbor Master and State Representative Bill Pinkham who died

following a road race in Bangor on July 4, 2005. Race co-organizer Robin Emery says Bill is watching from above and making sure the weather conditions are favorable for running. His burial site is at Forest Hill Cemetery which sits on the race course.

Money raised at the road race benefits numerous organizations, including the Lamoine Parks Commission. This year the race organizers donated funds in honor of Mike Westphal of Cranberry Isles who, despite being afflicted with Parkinson's Disease, ran the race in 22:17. Westphal was a world class runner and money will be used for Parkinson's research.

Commercial Fishermen Eye Pier

(Lamoine) - State officials will explore the possibility of locating a commercial fishing pier at Lamoine State Park following an inquiry from the town's Harbor Master and a commercial mussel harvester. Carter Newell of Pemaquid Mussel said the eastern pier at the park is unused, and needs a lot of work to be rehabilitated, but could prove ideal for commercial lobsterman and mussel farmers to land their catch. Newell told Selectmen on March 26th that there is some state economic development support, but grant money cannot go to a state agency. He has suggested that the town purchase the land around the existing pier and apply for grant funding for working waterfront development.

State Representative Brian Hubbell (D-Bar Harbor) said he would check into what might be needed to allow that to happen. Selectmen threw their support behind the concept, noting that any purchase would require town meeting approval. Fishermen currently use the existing boat ramp for operations.

Half Marathon Held in Early March

(Lamoine) - Something about Lamoine in March is quite attractive to serious runners. In addition to the Flattop 5K, a half marathon was run at the beginning of the Month. Organizer Nick Brown says the race, which will become an annual event, attracted about 60-runners for the 13.1 mile course that began and ended at Lamoine Beach Park.

Brown began planning for the race many months ago with assistance from Parks Commission chair Christa Brey, who also ran in the March 7th race. Both report that motorists who encountered runners along the narrow roads were extremely courteous. The heavy snowfall of January and February made sharing the road with autos and runners a real challenge.

Few could argue with the beauty of the race course. Lamoine Beach offers a breathtaking view of Bar Harbor and Frenchman Bay, and the beauty for runners is that it's a slight decline for the final leg of the marathon all the way to the finish line. The race organizers look forward to another half marathon in 2016.

Dog Licenses Lapse

(Lamoine) - State law requires that all dog owners register their dogs with the town clerk. Dog registrations must be done annually, and licenses expire December 31st each year. It's been the law for decades. The law even has a provision giving folks an extra month to take care of registration. Most dog owners take care of business. In fact, 256 dog licenses were issued between mid-October 2015 and the end of January 2015.

The state law also provides that if one registers a dog late, a \$25.00 late fee is charged. In February and March, more than 40 dog owners paid the fee. Clerk Jennifer Kovacs sent out reminders in early February to those who didn't register or had not let us know that they no longer have a dog.

There were still more than 30-dogs in the town office files that had not been registered at the end of March. Animal Control Officer Shannon Byers has the list, and in April plans to start contacting individual owners either by telephone or with a home visit to give them a deadline to complete the registration process. Failure to do so can result in a ticket and a visit to District Court for failure to register a dog. The fine is pretty steep—a lot more than the late fee.

Folks waiting for a valid rabies shot have some options. Rabies clinics are planned at the Southwest Harbor Veterinary Clinic on April 10, 2015 from 5-to-6 PM, and on April 11 from 3-to-4PM at the Small Animal Clinic in Ellsworth. All dogs must have current proof of rabies vaccination in order to complete their registration.

For folks who lose no longer have a dog that has previously been registered, the town office asks that you please call to let them know. The town receives rabies vaccination certificates through a relatively recent state policy change, and has identified many dogs that have never been registered.

Outstanding Debt Clarified

(Lamoine) - The good news is the town doesn't owe as much as was stated in an annual town meeting article to borrow money for a new rescue boat. The article stated had placed the debt services at \$516,016.64 if the \$75,000 article was approved. One voter correctly noted that the previously approved debt that remained outstanding of \$376,016.64 plus the amount to be borrowed did not add up to the figure. It's really only \$441,016.64. That's \$75,000 less than what was stated—treasurer Stu Marckoon figures that what happened was an error on his part inputting figures in the calculator, hitting the plus button twice on the \$75,000 borrowing plan. The error is regretted.

Voters approved the borrowing article handily. A few asked about the possible design of the new rescue boat, but no one questioned the need or the borrowing plan itself.

Church Owned House Demolished

(Lamoine) - Time was not kind to an old house inherited by the Lamoine Baptist Church. A broken water pipe and months of vacancy let to a mold problem that was more expensive to repair than it was worth. The Board of Deacons opted to tear the house down.

The house at 18 Lamoine Beach Road was deeded to the church in 1991 by the family of Esther Reynolds. A notation on the property card indicates the house was built in 1857. The Reynolds family acquired the property in 1925. Since acquisition, the church had rented the home for several years.



Contractor Jay Fowler's excavator sits atop the pile that was once the Esther Reynolds home on Lamoine Beach Rd. The building came down quickly on March 25, 2015

Parks Commission Needs Members

(Lamoine) - If you need an excuse to be out in the nice weather at a beautiful town park location this summer, the Town of Lamoine has a deal for you. You could serve the community as a member of Lamoine's Parks Commission. Some recent resignations due to work commitments have led to a pair of openings on the commission. Most recently the Selectmen accepted with regret Matt Montgomery's resignation. His term expires in 2016. There is also an alternate's position open which runs until 2017.

The volunteer position is what one makes of it, but it does require attending meetings which are supposed to take place periodically. The commission decides on policies and projects for the town park, and often members will perform special projects at the three park areas. If you are interested, please contact the Town Office for possible appointment.

Metal Recycler Agrees to "keep it small"

(Lamoine) - It was no secret that Rusty Boynton kept a pile of metal on his property to recycle. It's part of what he does for a living. However, the pile grew pretty big last fall, and town officials expressed concern that it might violate some local and state ordinance.

Mr. Boynton has signed an agreement to limit the size of his recycling pile to no greater than 40-percent of his lot size, and to not keep metal that he collects

for any longer than a year. He must also remove refrigerator doors and make sure the property is off limits to the public. Selectmen proposed the settlement, avoiding the need for a junkyard permit, which may or may not have been required. Since negotiating the agreement, American Iron & Metal has hauled away several loads of metal goods for recycling.

Vets Grave Maintenance Contract Pending

(Lamoine) - With a state mandate to provide maintenance on the graves of its veterans, the Town of Lamoine has succeeded in negotiating a contract with one of the two large cemetery corporations in town. East Lamoine Cemetery agreed to provide mowing services and grave marker maintenance at \$30 per Veterans Grave. The other large cemetery, Forest Hill, has yet to come to an agreement with the

Board of Selectmen on such service.

For years there has been an unwritten agreement that Forest Hill would bill the town for Veterans' graves that did not fall under perpetual care contracts within the cemetery. The price to the town rose sharply a couple of years ago, and with a relatively recent state law change, the town sought to formalize such an agreement to ensure that the cemetery corporations maintained all Veterans' graves. The contract proposed by the town would pay the cemetery association a significant amount more than the unwritten agreement, as it would cover all the Veteran graves. In return, the town asks for assurance that contractors hired by the cemetery association be insured, and that the association indemnify the town for any damages or accidents. Negotiations with Forest Hill continue, with different offers being considered.

Ordinance Changes In Progress

(Lamoine) - It may not look like much is happening to the general public, but there is some real progress happening on a couple of ordinance fronts.

The Gravel Ordinance which generates strong feelings from a lot of parties, is still being developed jointly by the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. A workshop meeting in February saw a lot of frank discussion and discovery that the goals of both boards are quite similar. Planning Board members John Holt and Gordon Donaldson and Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon are currently working on the 5th draft of a proposed ordinance.

The Planning Board is also working on language for the Building and Land Use Ordinance to clarify placement and occupancy of recreational vehicles. The effort follows an Appeals Board ruling that limited occupancy to 30-days per years without a permit.

Fuel Buyers News

By Kathie Gaianguest

(Lamoine) - Looking for a way to save money on your heating fuel? Sign up for membership in the Lamoine Fuel Buyers Group. Three local fuel companies offer special lower prices, for both oil and propane, to Group members. Over 85 Lamoiners have joined our group. Organized by volunteers so no membership fee. For more information email Kathryn Gaianguest at gaiangu@maine.edu, or call 667-1282.

Selectboard Meeting Schedule

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has set its meeting schedule for the next three months. The Board will meet April 9 and April 30, May 14 and 28, and June 11 and 25. The board generally meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7PM, with the exception of July and August, when one regular monthly meeting is scheduled to accommodate the busy season.

Paving Plan May Combine Projects

(Lamoine) - With the price of petroleum being the lowest it has been in years, town officials will try to get a bigger bang for the buck from paving in 2015. On the paving schedule for the fiscal year was the entire length of Needles Eye Road. The 2016 budget approved at the annual town meeting called for paving a portion of Buttermilk Road, extending from the Ellsworth City Line easterly for a mile.

The town contracts with retired Maine DOT supervisor Roger Picard of Abbot to set up the paving contract and supervise placement of the material on the roads. The hope is that bids will come in fairly low, as petroleum prices are a key component to paving costs. If that's the case, the plan is to pave both roads after the new budget takes effect on July 1, 2015, and encumbering the FY 2015

paving funds so that both projects can be done at the same time.

A new wrinkle came up at the Selectmen's organizational meeting in March—the school could use a new coat of pavement in both the parking lot and on the outdoor basketball court. The Lamoine PATRONS organization apparently has pledged to pay for the court paving. If savings projections are accurate, there could be enough money between the FY 15 and FY 16 paving budget to place a new coat of macadam on the school's badly deteriorated parking lot. The Selectmen await a decision from the school committee on whether they would agree to such a plan. Picard handles paving bids for several communities and usually awards them in April.

Ambulance Contract Renewed

(Lamoine) - Selectmen voted unanimously to renew a contract with County Ambulance to be the primary emergency medical service response agency for the next three years. Under the new plan, the town will pay county the same price as the current fiscal year (\$12,415.50 or \$7.75/person) for the first year, and \$14,418 per year of \$9/person the final two years of the contract.

Operations manager Scott Parsons says the price had not increased in 5-years. The contract provides some services that non-contract towns do not get, including ambulance coverage for special events and at structural fire calls. County made more than 100-ambulance calls in town in 2014.

Winter Fire Responses a Wide Variety

(Lamoine) - Firefighters have to be prepared for nearly anything that might require emergency assistance when the pager activates following a 9-1-1 call. That was the case for the first quarter of 2015. Surprisingly, though, very few calls had anything to do with the rough winter weather.

The LVFD responded to Trenton and Ellsworth for building fire calls, providing an attack crew and water supply in Trenton on February 21st. Hours later, the fire in Ellsworth brought firefighters and trucks over slippery roads to cover their fire station.

Three chimney fires were reported

during the quarter. Fires on Shore Road and Marilyn Lane were out on arrival, but a hot chimney on Needles Eye Road required some intervention, though there was no fire spread or damage.

A fire alarm just hours before town meeting sent chief officers and trucks to Deer Run, but there was no fire. A reported propane leak at a home being rented on Needles Eye Road was actually a case of an empty propane tank. Firefighters explained to the two young men occupying the house that propane companies intentionally put an odor with the LP gas



The Lamoine Fire Department provided traffic control, blocking off Jordan River Road while Emera Maine crews removed a large tree that fell onto power lines in March.

that is noticeable when the tank runs dry.

An early morning motor vehicle accident call in late March found no one at the scene of the wrecked car on Buttermilk Road. A passing motorist discovered the vehicle in the early morning hours and called 9-1-1. Chief Skip Smith reported someone got hurt. The car's owner, Tyler Murphy of Lamoine, got a ticket for leaving the scene of the crash and failing to report the accident. He said later that he walked home to Needles Eye Road after the crash, and suffered cuts, but doesn't remember how it happened.

Fire Department Raising Pump Funds

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's volunteer firefighters will soon send out their annual fund raising letter, and this year's project will be a new pump to run the rescue cutting tools. A pump purchased years ago has failed and is unable to be repaired. The department has one pump, but occasionally more than one rescue cutter or ram bar is needed at a time to deal with accident extrications. The second pump will allow that to happen.

Funds raised from last years letter campaign helped to purchase a thermal imaging camera that was placed into service last October.

Rescue Boat Approved

(Lamoine) - Fire department leaders are busily putting together a set of specifications for a new rescue boat following funding approval at the annual town meeting. The plan is to place out to bid construction of an approximately 21-foot rigid hull, inflatable boat with a 150 hp motor and a trailer. The new boat will replace the current 12-foot, 30 hp motor which has become unreliable and is not able to venture very far from shore, especially in rough weather.

If all goes well, the new boat may be in service by the fall of 2015. The fire department will contribute \$15,000 toward the cost, and the Town will borrow up to \$75,000 to pay for the new boat. Lamoine gets several calls a year for people in distress on the water.

Road Named

(Lamoine) - A new road name is assigned to a Seal Point Road drive. It will now be called Mosely Point Road as approved by the Selectmen. A second residence is under construction, necessitating the road name. Once the snow melts and the ground thaws out, a street name sign will be installed at the intersection.

Lamoine Scouts Meet Sen. Langley



(Lamoine) - Lamoine Troop 422 helped the Legislature pass a resolve proclaiming March 12 to be Official Girl Scout Day in Maine. The troop shown with State Senator Brian Langley traveled to the Senate chambers on March 12th to witness the proclamation's Senate approval.

Cell Tower Changing Hands

(Lamoine) - The cellular telephone tower located at the former landfill property will have a new owner soon. Verizon Wireless is transferring the tower to American Tower Corporation which will manage the property. A letter from American Tower says the town is not required to take any action. Lamoine collects \$1,150/month in rent from Verizon Wireless. Selectmen have rejected offers to sell the lease to numerous companies who have offered pennies on the dollar. The Lamoine lease runs for about 18-more years.

New Copier Sought

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have put a set of specifications out to bid for a new photocopier for the town office. The current copier is now more than 5-years old, and while it is working pretty well, parts are no longer manufactured for the unit, and the maintenance contract contains a clause that allows the company to cancel the contract should they not be able to find parts.

The town office makes about 75,000 copies a year on average. The new copier should be in place by June, 2015. Bidders have until April 9, 2015 to submit proposals. Town office staff will review the proposals and select a couple of units to "road test" before making a recommendation to the Selectmen on which unit to purchase.

Winter Damage Affects "Stuff"

(Lamoine) - The winter of 2015 presented challenges to a lot of folks, and the town was not immune from damage from the constant snow and its side effects. Luckily, that damage has been pretty minor so far, but not all the snow is gone.

At the town hall, a window pane in the attic is missing, likely the result of heavy wind and age. It will be replaced in the spring when it's warm enough to get upstairs to do so. Selectmen may have to replace the entire window at some point.

A tab of shingles also showed up on the ground on the south side of the building as the snow and ice fell from the roof. Code Enforcement Officer Mike Jordan, who replaced the roof a few years ago, will try to find where it came from, possibly the cupola.

An electric surge appeared to have fried the video switcher for the cable TV channel. Luck was with the town on two fronts—there is a spare switcher used on remote productions that was pressed into service, and staff was able to determine that a power transformer use to supply 12-volt electricity to the switching unit was damaged, not the switcher itself. A replacement was tough to track down, but two actually arrived in March, and the switcher is back in service, and the repair bill was less than \$62.00.

Town Acquires, Sells Back Properties

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has sold three pieces of tax acquired property back to the former owners after tax liens filed in 2013 automatically foreclosed to town ownership. The annual town meeting authorizes sale to the previous owners, and if they decline to redeem the property, the sale goes out to bid, with the final sale subject to town meeting approval.

One property belongs once again to Janet Mullen of Minnesota. She was the owner of record on April 1, 2012 when the tax bill was assessed, though she transferred the property to the home's occupant later that year. The other two



The DesIsles House on Lamoine Beach Road briefly belonged to the town, but is back with the DesIsles Family.

properties were transferred in late March to the Estate of Doris DesIsles who passed away in 2014. Two liens foreclosed in January, including one of a very old sea captain's home. Her son David has since secured the home. He said the property has been in the DesIsles family since the 1700s.

Korty Presented 2015 Conservation Award

By Larry Libby

(Lamoine) - Carol Korty is the recipient of the 2015 Conservation Award. The award was presented at the town meeting, March 11. Carol has been an enormous source of creativity and energy for the commission since its inception in 2002. Her concern for Lamoine and particularly its environment and natural resources is seemingly boundless. Though she resigned from the Commission in 2014 to pursue other interests, she continues to pay close attention to natural resource matters in the town and remains as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission.

With leadership by Commission member Larissa Thomas, the Commission is digitizing its archives to make them available to anyone working on conservation matters. Once completed, the archives will be available on line through the town web site and hard copies are filed for use in the town hall.

This is the 9th year of the GET WET! program, where 5th and 6th grade students in the Lamoine Consolidated School bring water samples from home for testing under the guidance of John Peckenham from the Mitchell Center at



Conservation Award Winner Carol Korty

UMaine. In April the process will be repeated at Ellsworth High School.

On March 25 a public meeting on the effects of climate change on seabird populations in the Gulf of Maine was held at the Lamoine school. Speaker was Linda Welch, biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service based at the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge in Milbridge. The meeting was well attended and will eventually be televised on the town's cable channel.

Community Arts Events Planned

By Diane Sanderson

On April 11th, members of LCA will travel to Gardiner for the annual MeACT gathering with other theater groups from Maine. We will present a short play that we performed at our Fall play event titled *A Defenseless Creature* by Neil Simon.

On the week-end of May 15th we will offer our annual Readers' Theater at the Grange. This year we will be reading

Alan Ayckbourne's *Round and Round the Garden*. Further details will be available in the Ellsworth American, at the Lamoine Grange, on our web site and Facebook page.

May 15th is the deadline for Lamoine students to apply for the Lamoine summer arts scholarship program. Please check the web site at www.lamoinearts.org for further details.

College, Summer Arts Scholarship Available

(Lamoine) - College students who live in Lamoine have a great opportunity to get some help with paying for school. The Allen and Leurene Hodgkins Scholarship is administered by the Maine Community Foundation and the Lamoine Board of Selectmen. More than \$27,000 is available to award in the 2015 cycle of scholarships. The application is located on the town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov). The town office will be more than happy to print up a copy to folks who want to drop by.

The deadline for the Hodgkins Scholarship is June 1, 2015. After the applications come in, a special sub

committee of the Selectmen will determine the recipients based on need and academic achievement.

Lamoine Community Arts is pleased to offer a limited number of partial scholarships to Maine summer arts programs. Students in grades K – 12 living in Lamoine or attending the Lamoine Consolidated School are eligible to apply. Residents of Lamoine will be given first preference. Scholarship awards will be based on need. Each family is expected to pay a portion of the cost. Interested families should see Miss Betty at the LCS front office.

Little Kids News

By Cynthia Donaldson

(Lamoine) -The Lamoine Little Children's playgroup for Lamoine families and their preschoolers (babies too) continues to meet on Thursday mornings from 9-11 at the Lamoine Baptist Church. The group provides a time for parents (and grandparents and great grandparents and child care providers) to visit and for children to engage in planned/teacher led activities and free play. Everyone has a chance to make new friends.

With the enthusiastic support of the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen, our group is working on a plan with the school to create a warm and welcoming corner in the school library for little children and their families. Early literacy and connecting families and the school are basic to our efforts. We hope to start a mini preschool presence in the library through short play group visits this spring, and to complete the project (painting, new books for little children, reorganizing) by next September.

If you'd like to help with the library project in some way, or join our group which meets monthly, or simply learn more about Lamoine's Little Children, please contact Cynthia Donaldson at 667-2382 or cgdonaldson@myfairpoint.net.

Returnables Beneficiaries

(Lamoine) - The proceeds from returnables donated at the transfer station will benefit the following:

- ⇒ April: Lamoine 8th Grade
- ⇒ May: Lamoine School Sports Program
- ⇒ June: Lamoine School Music Program
- ⇒ July: Frenchman Bay Riders
- ⇒ August: Recreation Committee

School News

By Dawn McPhail, Principal

(Lamoine) - Keep sending in those Labels for Education! Thanks to your help and Miss Betty's hard work our school won \$1000 in the Grand Stand for School Sweepstakes. Now we can earn free books for our school when you send in your UPCs and beverage/sauce caps from participating products. Visit LabelsForEducation.com for a complete list of products.

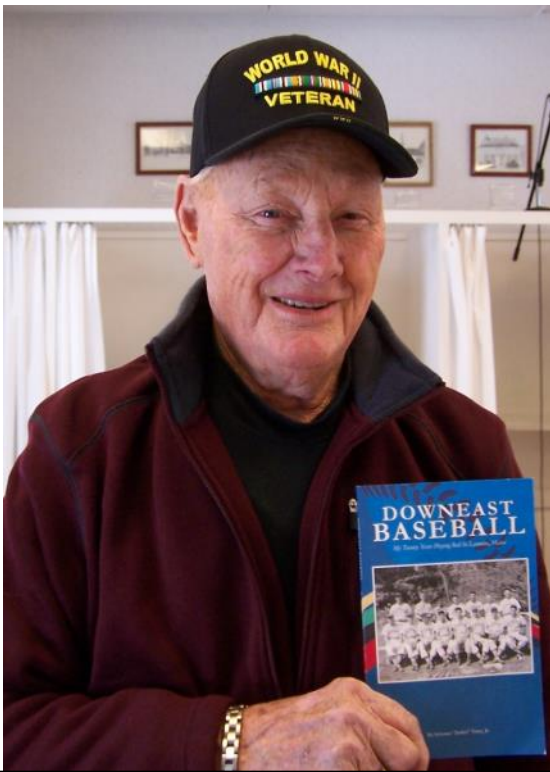
The PATRONS are sponsoring "Dinner & A Movie" on May 2nd. Dinner costs \$5 per person and will begin at 5:00. Menu items include Prospector's Chili, Nugget Corn Bread, & Apple Dumplings. At 6:00 the timeless Apple Dumpling Gang will begin. Concessions will be on sale throughout the movie. Seating will be available, but movie goers are invited to bring a bean bag, blanket or pillows if they wish.

Once again the PATRONS group put on a fabulous night for students and parents! They transformed the gymnasium into a replica of the Candy Land game board. It was an evening of fun for all!

The 1st annual Lamoine's Got Talent show is set to take the stage on Thursday, May 28th. Student auditions will be held from 3:00-4:00 on Tuesday, March 31st, Wednesday, April 1st and Thursday, April 2nd. This is a great opportunity for Lamoine students to share a talent or skill with friends & family and experience the magic of the stage. Possible acts include ensemble groups, such as instrumental music ensembles, dance groups, and skits.

Congratulations to the LCS Jazz Band for earning a 2 at the district competition, and Alexis Pinkham, Laura Yeadon, Nick Harding, Oliver Brown, Alyssa Farley, and Ross Fowler all received a 1 rating for their solos. Additionally, this 2 rating earned them a slot at the state competition on Saturday, March 21st. They again received a 2 rating for their performance, and Alexis Pinkham, Laura Yeadon, Alyssa Farley, Ross Fowler, Moxie McBrearty, Michael Merchant, and Nate Mason all received a 1 rating for their solos.

Lamoine Legend Publishes Baseball Book



Sylvanus "Junior" Tracy

(Lamoine) - During the 1950's, long before professional baseball negotiated media deals and paid millions to free agents, a lot of towns had semi-pro teams. Lamoine had one of the best in the state of Maine. Many of the team members are still alive today, and Sylvanus (Junior) Tracy has put pen to paper and memorialized their seasons. Each year is a chapter, and the book creates a big piece of local history.

Junior played 3rd base and pitched for the team which won numerous Downeast baseball titles over the 20-year span covered by the book. He stopped by the town office during the winter to let us know that folks can buy a copy for \$15.50 (\$18.20 if you want him to mail it). He started writing the chronicle in 1989 based on his box scores that he kept from the games, and from articles published in local papers. He gives a lot of credit to his late wife Carrie with inspiring him to start the writing, and former neighbor John Holt with helping to edit the copy.

One can order "Downeast Baseball" directly from Tracy at 2959 Route 2, Hermon, ME 04401. He doesn't mind if you call, either, 848-5559 or 745-1480.



The Candy Land "moms" helped put on a fabulous dance at the school in March!

April 2015 Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| The Fire Department meets Wednesdays at 7PM at the fire station | | | 1-3:30 PM Planning Board Site Visit | 2-6:30 PM Comprehensive Planning | 3 | 4-Town Office Open 8-12 |
| 5 | 6 | 7-6:30 PM Planning Board | 8– 8:15 AM Assessors 7PM Conservation Commission | 9-7PM Selectmen | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13-6:30 PM Budget Committee | 14—6:30 PM School Committee | 15—6:30 PM Shellfish Conservation | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20—Town Office Closed (Patriot’s Day) | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25—Town Office Open 8-12 |
| 26 | 27—6:30 PM Appeals Board | 28 | 29 | 30—7PM Selectmen | | |

May 2015—Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Summer Hours at the Transfer Station begin May 1 (Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-5) | | | | | 1 | 2—Town Office open 8-12 |
| 3 | 4 | 5—7PM Planning Board | 6—8:15 AM Assessors | 7—6:30 Comprehensive Planning | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12—6:30 School Committee | 13-7PM Conservation Cmsn. | 14—7PM Selectmen | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20—*Possible Special Town Meeting (School) | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25—Town Office closed (Memorial Day) | 26 | 27 | 28—7PM Selectmen | 29 | 30– Town Office Open 8-12 |
| 31 | *The town meeting date for the school budget had not been finalized by printing time. | | | | | |

June 2015—Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|--|--|----------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| | 1 | 2—7PM Planning Board | 3—8:15 AM Assessors | 4—6:30 PM Comprehensive Planning | 5 | 6—Town Office Open 8-12 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 *Possible School Budget Validation Vote 6:30 School Cmte. | 10—7PM Conservation Cmsn. | 11– 7PM Selectmen | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17—6:30 PM Shellfish Conservation | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23—10 AM MDI League of Towns | 24 | 25—7PM Selectmen | 26 | 27—Town Office Open 8-12 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | *The date for the school budget validation had not been finalized prior to printing. | | | |

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April 2015

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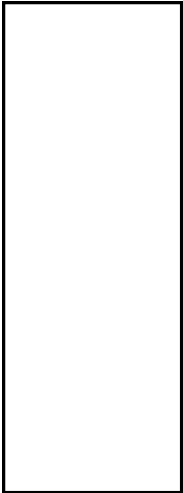
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Town of Lamoine
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